

# MIDCOAST FRIENDS MEETING FOR BUSINESS

APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Fourteen Friends were gathered in silent worship when Clerk Guy Marsden opened the session. MINUTES for the March meeting were approved.

SUE ROCKWOOD reported on several items. The new BLACK LIVES MATTER flag will be mounted on the porch wall. Ann and Diana will do some cleaning work at the Meeting House. Volunteers are needed to do some of the cleaning to reduce the burden on Sue of such chores. Guy also regularly cleans, removes trash, and does other maintenance. Sue noted that there were new tools and a check list in the closet. Her role is now aided by having remote control of the front door lock and Guy can remotely control the thermostats.

JEAN CRAWFORD spoke to a concern to provide some form of assistance to those in the area who are responsible for full-time care of someone. Could a sharing time for such caregivers to hold a workshop be set up? She also asked if a “buddy system” of one-on-one relationships could be established both to assist caregivers and to check in regularly on a person in need?

An extended discussion followed. We should be aware if a member of the meeting was in distress and needed help or at least regular and loving check-ins even when confidentiality was observed. Are we able to respond to the needs of newcomers? Do we have adequate information on the needs of both old and new members? Without a formal Pastoral Care Committee are there volunteers who can take on regular phone calls or visits to persons in need?

The idea of a support group for full-time caregivers was discussed at length without reaching a clear conclusion. More thought and investigation will be given to the idea.

ANDY BURT reported on a planned protest action in Massachusetts at the site of an ICE facility. The exact location has not been made public. Quakers are urged to support this protest and also to help create “care packages” to be shared with those who are incarcerated and their families. Simple non-perishable foods such as dried fruit and nuts are requested along with hygiene items such as soap and tooth brushes. A box will be put out on the porch to receive donations in the next few days. Andy will pick them up as she heads to the protest event next weekend.

DIANE DICRANIAN reflected on how well we help and care for each other. Do we sustain loving connections throughout our membership? She saw encouraging signs that we have made progress in this regard. Diane suggested that we have a sign-up sheet under the heading: “Be a buddy; Need a buddy” to help make explicit potential nurturing pairings.

BRUCE ROCKWOOD noted some new books taken into the Meeting library. He asked for donations of lively and attractive books to be placed in the small box on the porch where they might draw interest from newcomers as an introduction to the Meeting. Jonah is still seeking participants in a Quaker Book Reading Group.

SUE reported on sustained attendance at the regular worship sessions for LGBTQ persons and said that information about these sessions would be shared at the next Quarterly Meeting.

**BRUCE ROCKWOOD gave a report on FINANCES. He handed out copies of both the current year's budget and the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. Bruce pointed out variances and added expenses on several items in this year's budget. He estimated likely increase in next year's expenses such as in insurance and utilities. We have received the annual land lease from the Solar Farm. The proposed budget will be up for consideration and approval at the May Meeting for Business. Deep appreciation was expressed for all the skilled work on Finances that Bruce carries out on our behalf.**

**James Matlack, Recording Clerk**